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ABSTRACT

The study reported on in this document was undertaken to develop a service delivery model that would accurately reflect the Asian-American's specific cultural needs, values, and traditions. The personal characteristics, economic conditions, and interests of 255 Asian-American elderly in the Philadelphia area are described. A needs assessment of this sample includes the following: (1) present financial assistance; (2) needed financial assistance; (3) senior citizen center knowledge and participation; (4) reasons for not joining a senior citizen center (e.g., language barriers, racial discrimination); (5) need for an Asian-American senior center; (6) the degree of awareness the sample has of homemaker services, in-home services, domiciliary care, adult foster care, meals on wheels, supportive counseling, food stamps, protective services, legal services, recreational services, educational opportunities, mental health services, employment services, housing, and transportation. It is argued that the data collected indicate a need for an Asian-American senior citizen center in Philadelphia. Tables of statistical data and a list of references are included. (EB)

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NEEDS AND POTENTIALITIES ASSESSMENT
of
ASIAN-AMERICAN ELDERLY IN GREATER PHILADELPHIA

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PREFACE

There are at least 3,000 elderly Asian-Americans in the Greater Philadelphia area. The great majority of these people are unaware of services available to them, because of language difficulties; cultural values and traditions which differ from those of other groups of elderly, available services are not utilized.

The Asian-American Council of Greater Philadelphia, Inc., under the direction of Mrs. Victorina Peralta, has therefore made a concerned effort to locate and identify a total of 254 Asian-Americans of four ethnic groups: Koreans, Pilipinos, Chinese, and Japanese, in order to provide important information on the unique characteristics and needs of these people. Providing this data is an essential first step to formulating a service delivery model which will be responsive to the interests and needs of the Asian-American elderly.

This is the first time that a study of this nature has ever been undertaken in Greater Philadelphia.

The Principal Investigators are cognizant of the limitations of this study which is necessitated by the limited resources available for this study.

The S-1-R grant to undertake this study is $3,700.00 and is viewed as the initial effort in promoting further and more substantial research in this area.

The Principal Investigators acknowledge with deep appreciation the work of the Center for Social Policy and Community Development, Temple University, Seymour J. Rosenthal, Director and Elaine Fox, Research Analyst, for the compilation and analysis of the data of this study and for writing this report.

I. INTRODUCTION

Goal

The goal of this study is to describe the personal characteristics, economic conditions, interests and needs of 255 Asian-American elderly in the Philadelphia area.

By analyzing the potentialities and needs of members of the Korean, Chinese, Japanese, and Pilipino elderly, as well as describing reasons for their reluctance to utilize presently existing social services, it is hoped that a service delivery model may be developed which will more accurately reflect Asian-Americans' specific cultural needs, values and traditions.

Methodology

Eight outreach workers have been utilized to randomly select and interview at least fifty elderly persons each. In order to facilitate the interviewing process, and to minimize resistance from the target populations, outreach workers were chosen to reflect the ethnicity and age of their groups; that is, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Pilipino elderly were interviewed by people of their own ethnic group, and in their own language. All the outreach workers were above 60 years of age except two who were 55 years of age. They all speak their native language fluently; but they also have a good command of the English language.

The outreach workers were given orientation in the technique of interviewing using the written questionnaires as their tool.

The listing of services for the elderly was defined in layman's term and in writing for the outreach workers, so that they could explain them to the respondents clearly and concisely in their native tongue.

Each ethnic group was given a target quota which is as follows:

	Quota	Achieved Quota
Chinese	75	73
Japanese	50	54
Koreans	50	50
Pilipinos	75	78
Total	250	255

The city of Philadelphia was divided into 5 areas (Please see map on page 55 showing the boundaries for these 5 areas).

Each of the outreach workers was familiarized with the questionnaires before they actually did the face-to-face interviews.

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE

Area

Table I presents the number and proportion of Asian-American elderly who live in five areas of the city and suburbs. The largest proportion of the total sample (36%) live in Area 5, the Northeast and suburban areas of Philadelphia.

One of four persons reside in the southern area of the city. Smaller percentages of individuals live in the Germantown section (10.3%), North Central Philadelphia (14.3%), and the West and Southwest areas of Philadelphia (12.7%).

A further elaboration of Asian-Americans by area, is presented in Table II.

The largest number and proportion of Chinese elderly, 60.3%, are located in Area 3, the Southern portion of the city, bounded by Callowhill to the Delaware River and Schuylkill River. Slightly over twenty percent of Chinese elderly live in Area 5, the Northeast and suburban area of Philadelphia.

Nearly eighty percent of Japanese elderly live in Area 5.

Half of the Korean elderly population also live in Area 5; another twenty percent live in Area 4, the West and southwest areas of the city.

Pilipino elderly are fairly evenly divided among Areas 1 through 4. Under ten percent live in the suburban Philadelphia and Northeast section of the city.

Age

Over forty percent of the total sample are between the ages of 71 and 80. Nearly one-quarter of the total sample are between the ages of 60 and 70. One-third of the population is over age 81. (See Table III).

Comparison by ethnic groups reveal that the Japanese sub-sample is considerably older than the other three ethnic groups; 46.1% are over age 80, as compared to the Chinese, Korean, and Pilipino groups, where 24.7%, 36.8%, and 29.8% are over age 80. (See Table IV)

Asian-Americans by Group

Table V presents the number and proportion of each of the four sampled groups of Asian-Americans.

Pilipinos and Chinese represent the largest proportion of the sample (30.6%, 28.6% respectively). The Japanese group represents 21.2% of the sample; the Koreans 19.6%.

Sex

Nearly half of the total sample are females (47.8%); 52.1% are males.

A comparison by groups (see Table VI) indicates that the proportion of males to females is highest in the Chinese and Pilipino groups, where the proportion is over 70% male for the Pilipinos and 64.4% male for the Chinese. For the Japanese and Korean groups the proportion is virtually reversed; 70% of these groups are females. (Table VII)

Present Living Arrangements

Over forty percent of all Asian-Americans live with a son or daughter. (See Table VIII). This figure varies from a low of 26.0% and 27.8% for Chinese and pilipino elderly, to a high of 58.3% and 61.8% for Japanese and Korean elderly. (See Table IX).

One-third of the total sample live alone. Chinese and pilipino elderly indicate this to be their living arrangement 43.3% and 47.2%, respectively. Japanese and Koreans live alone far less frequently (16.4%, 10.4%).

Only one person a Korean, lives in a boarding home.

Twenty-seven percent of the total sample indicated "other" living arrangements: living with friends, other family, a spouse. Proportions for each ethnic group ranged from 21.8% for the Japanese elderly, to 30.1% for the Chinese.

Marital Status

As shown in Table X, the largest group of the total sample are widows or widowers (49.6%). This figure ranges from a low of 34.2% of the Pilipino group, to a high of 65.5% of the Japanese. (See Table XI).

One-third of the total sample are married. The incidence of marriage is closely similar for Japanese, Korean, and pilipino elderly (32.7%, 30.6%, 32.0%), and slightly higher for the Chinese group (37%).

Eleven percent of the total sample are single. None of the Japanese group are single; 8.2% of the Korean group, 13.7% of the Chinese group and nearly 20% of the Pilipino indicate this status.

Marital Status (Continued)

Divorced persons make up a small percentage of the total (5.6%); none of the Koreans are divorced; Pilipinos account for the largest proportion (13.3%).

Home Ownership/Rental

Table XII presents data which indicates that as a group, slightly over twenty percent of the Asian-Americans own their own home. Those who rent their homes accounts for 43.6% of the total group. "Other" living arrangements, including living with sons or daughters in their homes, account for one-third of the total sample's living arrangements.

Income

Data summarizing income levels for Asian-American elderly are presented in Tables XIIIand XIV . Table XIII,which presents income for the total sample indicates that nearly half of the total sample has income within the range of $100 to $200 per month. Fifteen percent of the total sample state that their income bracket is below $100 a month.

A further breakdown of income levels by ethnic group is provided in Table XIV. For each group of Asian-American elderly, at least half have incomes below $200 per month. Koreans are particularly disadvantaged; 86.5% have incomes below $200.

Ability to Speak English

As shown in Table XV , 144 respondents, slightly over one-half of the sample, indicated an ability to speak English. Forty-one percent of the total group stated that they could speak no English.

Table XV illustrates the breakdown of each group's ability to speak English, as well as the overall proportions for the entire sample.

Less than three percent of the total sample report that they speak English excellently. Thirteen percent described their English skills as "good"; nineteen percent as "fair," 24.3% speak little English, and over forty percent speak no English at all.

Sixty-five percent of the total sample of Asian-Americans, therefore, speak little or no English. For the Korean group, this number rises to 96%.

III. TALENTS OF THE SAMPLE

Table XVI presents the talents and interests of the four ethnic groups, by number and proportion.

Nearly half of all respondents cited "cooking" as an area of talent and interest. Thirty percent of the sample cited "friendly visiting" as an area of talent. Interest was expressed by over ten percent of the group for "arts and crafts" and "singing". Small numbers of respondents (5%) indicate talent and interest in "public speaking," "poetry," "carpentry," "painting," and "community organizing".

IV. INTERESTS IN EMPLOYMENT OR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Employment Availability

Table XVII summarizes data relating to respondents' interest in finding employment.

Over one-quarter of the total sample indicates an availability for employment. Nearly 75% of the sample stated that they were not interested in being employed.

Table XVII indicates the number and proportion of those interested in working from each ethnic group. Figures range from a low of 5.7% for the Japanese group, to a high of over one-half of the Pilipino sample.

Of those interested in employment, one-third of the group wish to work full-time. The remaining two-thirds of the sample are interested in part-time employment. (See Table XVIII)

Availability for Volunteer Services

Over one-quarter of the total sample respondents indicated an interest and willingness to participate in volunteer services. (Table XIX)

Of those who are interested in volunteering their talents and abilities, most (59.2%) expressed interest in once-a-month time allotment. Over forty percent would be available for service once a week.

The relative numbers and proportions for each ethnic group is indicated in Table XX. The Japanese group showed the least inclination toward volunteer service (14.8%), ranging to high proportion of nearly 40% of the Pilipino sample.

V. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Present Aid

Asian-Americans receive low levels of financial aid (See Table XXI) Less than 5% receive either food stamps or DPA; 15% of the total sample receive Medicaid. Slightly over 20% receive SSI payments. Of the total sample, one-third receive Medicare. The largest proportion of residents receive aid in the form of reduced SEPTA fares (42.7%).

Nced for Financial Assistance

Table XXIII shows the gap between needs indicated by respondents for financial assistance, and those forms of aid actually received.

Fifteen percent of those who indicate a need for food stamps, actually receive them.

Of the group of 120 persons who indicate that they need SSI, 43.4% receive this form of aid.

Medicaid and Medicare are received by only 40.8%, and 60.1%, respectively, of the number of people who indicated a need for these forms of assistance.

Since the need for financial assistance is based on the individuals' responses, it is likely that these figures strongly underestimate the actual needs for assistance, based upon, among other considerations, their low levels of income.

Awareness of Senior Centers

As shown in Table XXIII, sixty percent of respondents do not know of any senior center in their neighborhood.

A breakdown by age groups indicates that the number of respondents who are familiar with the presence of senior centers in their neighborhoods ranges from a low of 19.0% for the age group 60-70 to a high of 63.6% for those in the over 90 age group. (Table XXIV)

Participation in Activities of Senior Centers

Nine percent of all sampled respondents participate in senior center activities.

Chinese, Pilipino, and Japanese elderly have similar levels of participation (11 or 12%). The Korean group has no membership in senior centers.

Reasons for not Joining Senior Centers

Despite the fact that forty percent of the total respondents know of senior centers within their neighborhood, only 23 persons participate in center activities. As mentioned earlier, this number represents only nine percent of the total Asian-American senior center sample population.

Table XXV shows respondents' cited reasons for not joining senior centers. Percentages are based on the total number of Asian-Americans, less the small number (23) who indicate participation in senior center activities.

The two most frequently cited obstacles to participation for the total population are language barriers, by nearly one-third of the population, and the fact that Asian-Americans feel that services offered by the centers do not correspond to their unique interests.

Further elaboration of Asian-Americans' reasons for not joining senior centers is displayed in Table XXVI.

Language Barriers

Thirty percent of the total study indicate that language barriers prevent their participation in center activities. This percentage is lowest in the Pilipino sub-sample (3%), where a relatively high proportion of the group indicate a "good" or "fair" ability to speak English.

For the remaining three groups, however, language skills are more problematic, since large proportions of each of the Korean, Japanese, and Chinese groups speak little or not English. Twenty percent of the Korean group, thirty-nine percent of the Japanese group, and fifty-seven percent of the Chinese group indicate problems in the area of language to be significant in their decision not to join senior centers.

Insensitivity to Needs

Over twenty percent of the total sample, ranging from a low of 14% of the Japanese group, to a high of 30% for the Pilipino group, cite this as a reason for non-participation.

Restrictive Eligibility Requirements

On the average, restrictive eligibility requirements were the least cited reason for not joining activities at a senior center.

Small numbers and proportions of Chinese (4%), Japanese (6%), and Pilipino (1%) pointed to this as a reason for not joining senior centers.

Fourteen percent of the Korean group, the highest of the four ethnic groups, cited this as a reason for not joining.

Disinterest

Eighteen percent of the total sample stated that they were not interested in membership in a senior center. Thirteen percent of the Pilipino group, sixteen percent of the Korean group, 19% of the Chinese group, and nearly one-quarter of the Japanese group cited this as a reason for not joining center activities.

Racial Discrimination

An average of slightly over twelve percent of the total population indicated racial discrimination as a reason for not joining activities at a senior center. This number was least pronounced in the Chinese and Japanese groups (1%, 4%, respectively). Significantly larger numbers and proportions of Koreans and Pilipinos cited this as a negative force (16%, 26%).

Services do not respond to Interests and Needs

The highest proportion of the total study group (42.7%) cited this as a reason for their non-participation in senior center activities.

One-quarter of the Japanese and Korean groups pointed to this lack of correspondence between services and activities offered, by centers, and those desired, by the older adult ethnic population. Over one-half of the Chinese and Pilipino groups indicated this as a significant reason for non-participation.

Need for Asian-American Senior Center

Nearly eighty-five percent of the total sample feel that there is a need for a senior center specifically addressed to the needs of Asian-Americans.

Slightly over thirteen percent indicate that they don't know whether this need exists. Less than three percent feel that there is not a need for this center. (See Table XXVII)

Awareness of Services

Tables XXVIII and XXIX present respondents' awareness of services for the elderly in Philadelphia, both for the total sample, as well as by ethnic group.

Awareness of services is extremely low for most listed options; for twenty-four of the thirty-two listed services, the total sample's familiarity is under five percent. Highest recognition of services to the elderly is for senior centers (by 25% of the total sample), food stamps (35%), and transportation discounts (24%). Knowledge of available services is particularly low in the Korean group.

A summary of the awareness of services, by ethnic group, follows.

Homemaker Services

Five percent of the total sample population have heard of this service. None of the Koreans, however, have heard of it; for the other three ethnic groups, the range is from 5% to 7% of the sub-samples.

In-home Services

Only one percent of the total sample indicate a knowledge of in-home services. None of the Japanese or Korean persons have familiarity with this service. Low proportions of the Pilipinos (1%) and Chinese (4%) have heard of this service.

Domiciliary Care

Under one percent of the total sample has heard of domiciliary care. Again, none of the Japanese or Korean persons, and only 1% of the Pilipino, and 3% of the Chinese, have indicated knowledge of this service modality.

Adult Foster Care

Three percent of the total sample indicated awareness of adult foster care. None of the Koreans, 1% of the Pilipinos, 5% of the Chinese, and 7% of the Japanese indicated knowledge of this service.

Meals-On-Wheels

Only nine percent of the total sample are familiar with meals-on-wheels services. Again, this service is totally unfamiliar to the Korean group; and to only 3% of the Pilipino elderly. Higher levels of awareness

of this service are shown in the Chinese and Japanese groups (14%, 18%, respectively).

Senior Centers

Senior centers are one of the highest overall recognized services; familiarity is indicated by 25% of the total sample. Again, none of the Koreans indicated knowledge of centers; small numbers of Chinese (11%) and relatively higher proportions of the Japanese group (22%) indicated familiarity. Over half of the Pilipino group (57%) are aware of this service.

Supportive Counseling

Five percent of the total sample indicate familiarity with supportive counseling. None of the Koreans or Pilipinos have heard of this, and only 7% and 11% of the Japanese and Chinese groups have heard of this service.

Nutrition Sites

Five percent of the total sample indicate familiarity with nutrition sites. None of the Koreans is aware of this service, and relatively low levels of awareness for each of the other three ethnic groups has been indicated.

Food Stamps

Over one of three total respondents are aware of the availability of food stamps. This figure ranges from a low of 10% of the Korean group,

29% of the Japanese elderly, 33% of the Chinese group, to a high of nearly 60% of the Pilipino group.

Protective Services

Two percent of the total sample indicate awareness of protective services. Again, none of the Koreans, and low levels of awareness for the other three groups of Asian-Americans has been indicated.

Escort Services

Two percent of the total population indicates familiarity with escort services for the elderly. As for most other services, Koreans show no knowledge of this service; for the other ethnic groups awareness is also low (under 4%, each).

Friendly Visiting

Eleven percent of the total sample population indicates knowledge of this service. None of the Koreans, 5% of the Japanese, 11% of the Chinese have heard of this service. Higher proportions of the Pilipino group (23%) indicate familiarity with this service.

Community Legal Service

Six percent of the total sample have heard of community legal services. Again, none of the Korean group indicate awareness of this service. Only 4% of the Chinese group, 8% of the Pilipino group, and 13% of the Japanese indicate awareness of this service.

Case Management

Under one percent of the total sample have heard of case management services. Under 2% for the Chinese and Japanese groups, and none of the Korean and Pilipino groups indicate this awareness.

Recreational Services

Eleven percent of the total sample are aware of the availability of recreational services. Similar proportions of the Chinese and Japanese groups (11%); and 17% of the Pilipino group indicates knowledge of this resource. None of the Koreans have heard of this service.

Travel Day Camp

Six percent of the total population have knowledge of travel day camps for the elderly. Again, none of the Koreans indicate awareness of this service. Highest awareness of this service option is indicated by the Pilipino group (11%). The Chinese and Japanese groups indicate awareness of this service by 5% and 7% of their respective samples.

Senior Aide Program

Three percent of the total population indicates awareness of the senior aide program. None of the Koreans have heard of this service; for the remaining three ethnic groups awareness is under 5%.

Community Nursing

Three percent of the total sample have heard of the availability of community nursing services. None of the Korean or Pilipino elderly sampled

Information and Referral

Low levels of the sampled population have heard of information and referral services. This percentage is particularly low . For the Japanese (2%), the Korean (0), and the Pilipino groups (1%). Relatively higher percentages of the Chinese groups have heard of this service (11%).

Emergency Shelter

Three percent of the total sample indicated awareness of emergency sheltering services. Again, none of the Koreans have heard of this service, and low proportions of each of the other three ethnic groups indicate awareness.

Wheels, Inc.

A small percentage of the total sample (3%) indicates awareness of Wheels, Inc. None of the Koreans, and five percent of the Chinese and Japanese groups have heard of this resource. Only 1% of the Pilipinos have heard of this group.

Emergency Funds

Small percentages of the total sample know about the availability of emergency funds (2%). None of the Koreans and Pilipinos, and only 2% of the Chinese and Japanese (2%, 5%, respectively) are aware of this service.

have heard of this service. For the Chinese and Japanese groups, proportions of their samples who have heard of this service are 8% and 5% respectively.

State Ombudsman

The State Ombudsman program has been heard of by under 1% of the total sample. This figure remains at 1% or below, for each of the four groups of Asian-Americans.

Housing for the Elderly

Fourteen percent of the total sample are aware of housing for the elderly. This figure is highest for the Chinese (25% of the sample) and lowest for the Koreans (0). Japanese and Pilipinos have equal proportions of their samples who are aware of this service (13%).

Transportation Discounts

Transportation discounts show one of the highest levels of awareness for each of the ethnic groups as well as for the sample as a whole. Twenty-four percent of the total sample indicate knowledge of this resource. Awareness of this service is highest for the Chinese and Pilipino elderly (26%, 32%, respectively, and lowest for the Japanese and Korean group (16%, 18%, respectively).

Groups Trips and Tours

Nineteen percent of the total sample are aware of the existence of group trips and tours. The knowledge of this service is lowest for the

Koreans (8%), relatively similar for the Chinese and Japanese (15%, 16%), and highest for the Pilipino group (33%).

Educational Opportunities

The awareness of educational opportunities is very low for the total group (3%) as well as for each of the ethnic groups. None of the Korean group is aware of educational opportunities; for each of the three remaining groups, proportions are under 5%.

Job Recruitment and Training

Awareness of job recruitment and training is low (3% for the total group). Again, Koreans show no awareness of this service, and for the remaining three ethnic groups, knowledge of this service is under 5%.

Mental Health Services

Three percent of the total population are familiar with mental health services to the elderly. None of the Korean or Pilipino groups and only 1% of the Japanese elderly indicate awareness of these services; awareness of mental health services is highest in the Chinese sub-sample (8%).

Mental Retardation Services

One percent of the total population indicates awareness of this service. Again, none of the Korean or Pilipino groups indicate knowledge of this service. One percent of the Japanese group and four percent of the Chinese group are aware of mental retardation services.

Alternative Living

Under two percent of the total sample have heard of alternative living services. None of the Koreans or Pilipinos have heard of this service, and small percentages of the Chinese and Japanese groups have heard of this service (5%, 2%).

Retirement Counseling

One percent of the total sample have heard of retirement counseling. Again, none of the Korean group, and only 1% or 2% of the other three Asian-American groups indicate familiarity with this service.

Needed Services

Presented in Table XXX are data which present the number and proportion of the sample who indicate a need for specific social services.

A need for services is indicated by a highly substantial number of respondents. Highest needs are indicated in the area of health services, by 72.3% of the sample, recreational services, 70.8%, and transportation services, 65.6% of the sample.

Nearly half of the total respondents (44.7%) need financial aid. Large groups of respondents need services in the area of housing (39.5%), information and referral (36.4%) nutrition services (39.1%), and retirement counseling (33.2%).

Needed Services by Ethnic Group

Further elaboration of the total group needs of the sample is given in Table XXXI which presents data indicating the number and proportion of

each ethnic group for needed services.

In general, the Japanese group indicated a lower level of need for services than did the Chinese, Korean, and Pilipino groups.

Further elaboration of the need or services by ethnic goup follows:

Counseling

Over one-quarter of the total sample indicate a need for counseling services. This need is least marked in the Japanese group (1%). Over one-quarter of the Chinese group (26%), one-third of the Pilipino group (32%), and nearly half of the Korean group (47%) indicate a need for counseling services.

Employment Services

Employment services are indicated to be needed by nearly one-quarter of the total sample. This need is reported to be virtually non-existent for the Chinese and Japanese groups (1%, 0%, respectively), and very important to the Korean group (24%), and the Pilipino group (53%).

Financial Aid

Nearly half of all respondents indicate a need for financial aid. Again, the Japanese group indicates the lowest level of need (1%). For the Chinese group, forty percent indicate a need for this service. Over sixty percent of the Korean and Pilipino groups express needs for financial aid.

Health Services

Health services represent the highest priority for the total elderly population; a need for these services is indicated by over 70% of the sample. Over half of the Japanese group indicate this need, ranging to over eighty percent of the Chinese group. High needs are described by the Koreans (69%) and the Pilipinos (79%).

Housing

Nearly forty percent of the total sample indicate a need for housing services. Again, the need is lowest in the Japanese community (1%). This need is expressed by over one-third of the sample for the Korean and Pilipino groups. The highest need for housing services is indicated by the Chinese group (66%).

Information/Referral

Over one-third of the total sample of elderly indicated a need for information and referral services. Lowest need for services in this area is indicated by the Japanese and Pilipino groups (29%). Nearly half of the Chinese and Korean groups (42%, 47%, respectively) expressed a need for information and referral services.

Mental Health Services

Mental health services are a relatively low priority need for the total sample of Asian-Americans. For the Chinese group, however, this need is expressed by twenty-five percent of the sample. For the remaining

three ethnic groups, however, a need for mental health services is expressed by under 1% of each group.

Nutrition Services

Nearly forty percent of the total sample indicate a need for nutrition services. This need ranges from a low of 13% of the Japanese group to a high of 60% of the Chinese group. One-third of the Pilipino group, and one-half of the Korean group express this need.

Recreational Services

The need for recreational services is a high priority need for over seventy percent of the total sample. Nearly one-half of the Japanese group (47%) point to this as a need. High proportions of the remaining three groups (Korean, 61%,; Chinese, 79%, and Pilipino, 87%) express interest in recreational services.

Retirement

One-third of the total sample express a need for retirement services. The lowest need for this service was evidenced in the Japanese group (15%). One-third of the Chinese and Korean groups, and nearly half of the Pilipino group express a need for services related to retirement.

Transportation

Over sixty-five percent of the total sample indicate a need for transportation services. Half of the Japanese group indicate this as

a need, sixty percent of the Pilipino group, nearly seventy percent of the Chinese group, ranging to ninety percent of the Koreans.

Reasons for Not Getting Services

Table XXXIII presents the number and proportion of the sample population who indicate various reasons for not obtaining social services.

Nearly sixty-five percent of the total group indicated an inability to get the required help that they need. Frequently cited by respondents were problems with language barriers, by 53.0%. Closely related to this, is the absence of bi-cultural service providers, noted by 57.3% of the sample.

Least noted by respondents, although representing the concerns of a significant number and proportion of the total group are an inability of the service providers to understand the needs of the individual (25.3%) a sense of shame at having to ask for help, (24.5%), and feelings of racial discrimination (22.5%).

Table XXXIV further elaborates, by ethnic group, reasons respondents indicate for not getting services which are needed.

Sense of Shame for Seeking Help

Nearly one-quarter of the total sample of Asian-American cites a reluctance to seek needed services because of a sense of shame for needing help. Relatively low proportions of Chinese (12%), Japanese (7%) and Korean (12%) cite this as a reason. Over one-half of the Pilipino group, however, indicates feelings of shame as a reason for difficulty in seeking services.

Lack of Knowledge of How to Get Needed Help

Nearly sixty-five percent of the total respondent group state they do not know how to go about getting the help that they need. This number ranges from a low of over one-third of the Japanese group, to three-quarters of the Chinese, Korean, and Pilipino groups.

Service Persons Do Not Understand Me

One-quarter of the total group state that the lack of understanding on the part of service workers makes it difficult to seek needed services. The figure is lowest for the Japanese group (1%). Twenty percent of Koreans state this as a problem, as do one-third of Chinese and Pilipinos.

Language Barriers

Over one-half of all Asian-American cite language barriers as a significant reason for their not obtaining help which they need. This ranges from a low of 29% of the Japanese group to a high of 84% of the Korean elderly. High numbers and proportions of Pilipinos (39%) and Chinese (66%) express this as a barrier to utilization of social services.

Service Persons Don't Know Traditions and Values

Over one-third of the total sample of elderly state that cultural dissimilarities between service providers and the Asian-American population have the effect of preventing the use of services, although needed.

Ten percent of the Japanese group cited this "culture clash" as problematic. Twenty-two percent of the Korean group, and nearly half of the Chinese and Pilipino groups cited this as a difficulty in seeking needed services.

Racial Discrimination

Less than one-quarter of the total Asian-American population surveyed cited racial discrimination as a factor which mediates against seeking needed services.

These proportions are lowest in the Chinese and Japanese groups (8%, 1%, respectively) and highest in the Korean groups (24%, 51%).

Lack of Easy Access to Services

Half of the total sample population stated that the location of service providers and transportation problems were important factors in their not seeking and receiving help.

One-third of the Japanese group, nearly one-half of the Chinese group, and over sixty percent of Koreans and Pilipinos pointed to problems with transportation and location as significant factors which make receiving services problematic.

Absence of Bi-Cultural Service Providers

Nearly sixty percent of the total population pointed to the absence of bi-cultural service providers as a significant factor in their difficulty in seeking social services. Relatively low levels of English-speaking abilities on the part of the client population, and the lack

of bi-cultural service providers, would obviously prove to be problematic in facilitating communication of client needs. Proportions of persons who indicate this lack of bi-cultural service providers is high for all ethnic groups; 42% of the Japanese group, 57% each of Chinese and Koreans, and 69% of Pilipinos stress this as a cause of difficulty in receiving needed services.

Hostilities and Lack of Understanding of Service Providers

Thirty percent of the total sample group feel that service providers will be either hostile to, or lack understanding of their needs. Again, this could be a lack of communication on the part of both clients and service providers.

The Japanese group expressed the lowest level of feelings of hostility and lack of understanding (9%); Chinese and Koreans expressed this concern in approximately equal proportions (19%, 22%); Pilipino concern with this issue is markedly higher (61%).

VI. CONCLUSIONS

The data indicate a clear need for a resource center, perhaps an Asian-American Senior Citizen Center in Philadelphia.

This conclusion is based upon several facts:

1. The great majority of Asian-Americans sampled, indicate positive feelings toward the creation of a senior center specifically designed to meet their unique cultural traditions.
2. Resources should be aimed at providing needed services, as well as providing an opportunity for cultural and recreational activities more closely aligned with the values and cultural traditions of the Asian-American population in the City of Philadelphia.
3. Asian-American elderly are an economically-disadvantaged group; incomes are low, and financial assistance is not being utilized.
4. Traditional avenues of service delivery are not being used. The sample group has low levels of awareness of existing resources in their neighborhoods; use of these facilities is virtually non-existent by Asian-American elderly.
5. Even when needs are identified, there is a general reluctance to utilize general social services as well as senior centers. Primary reasons are:
    - . lack of adequate English skills
    - . the inability of the Asian-Americans to negotiate the bureaucratic system
    - . lack of correspondence between services offered by the senior centers and the talents, interests, and abilities of the Asian-American groups themselves.

6. The Asian-American elderly have potentialities and if given the opportunity can help enrich community life in Greater Philadelphia.

TABLE I
ASIAN-AMERICANS BY AREA

Area		N	%
1	Germantown	26	10.3
2	North Central	36	14.3
3	South	67	26.6
4	West & Southwest	32	12.7
5	Northeast and Suburbs	91	36.1
	Total	253	
	Missing Data	2	(1.0% of total)

TABLE II
DISTRIBUTION BY AREA AND ETHNIC GROUP

Area	Chinese	Japanese	Korean	Pilipino
1	3 *4.1*	1 *1.9*	5 *10.2*	17 *22.7*
2	8 *11.0*	6 *11.1*	4 *8.2*	17 21.7
3	44 *60.3*	4 *7.4*	4 *8.2*	15 *20.0*
4	3 *4.1*	0 -	10 *20.4*	20 26.3
5	15 *20.5*	43 *79.6*	26 *53.1*	7 *9.3*

TABLE III
ASIAN-AMERICANS BY AGE

Age		N	%
60 - 70		61	24.3
71 - 80		106	42.2
81 - 90		51	20.3
90+		33	13.1
	Total	251	
	Missing Data	4	(1.5% of total)

TABLE IV
DISTRIBUTION BY AGE AND ETHNIC GROUP

Age	Chinese	Japanese	Korean	Pilipino
60-70	27 *37.0*	2 *3.6*	21 *42.9*	11 *14.9*
71-80	28 *38.4*	27 *49.1*	10 *20.4*	43 *58.1*
81-90	11 *15.1*	20 *37.0*	4 *8.2*	15 *20.3*
91+	7 *9.6*	5 *9.1*	14 *18.6*	7 *9.5*

TABLE V
ASIAN-AMERICANS BY GROUP

Group	N	%
Chinese	73	28.6
Japanese	54	21.2
Korean	50	19.6
Pilipino	78	30.5
Total	255	

TABLE VI
SEX

	N	%
Female	120	47.8
Male	131	52.1
Total	251	
Missing Data	5	(1.9% of total)

TABLE VII
DISTRIBUTION BY SEX AND ETHNIC GROUP

	Chinese	Japanese	Korean	Pilipino
Male	47 *64.4%*	17 *31.4%*	14 *28.6%*	53 *70.6*
Female	26 *35.6*	37 *68.4*	35 *71.4*	22 *29.3*

TABLE VIII
PRESENT LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Live	N	%
Alone	79	31.9
With Son/Daughter	101	40.7
Boarding Home	1	.4
Other	67	27.0
Total	248	(2.3% of total)
Missing Data	6	

TABLE IX
PRESENT LIVING ARRANGEMENT
BY ETHNIC GROUP

	Chinese	Japanese	Korean	Pilipino
Alone	32 *43.8 %*	9 *16.4 %*	5 *10.4 %*	34 *47.2%*
With Son/Daughter	19 *26.0*	33 *61.5*	28 *58.3*	20 *27.8*
Boarding Home	0 -	0 -	1 *2.1*	0 -
Other	22 *30.1*	12 *21.8*	14 *29.2*	19 *26.4*

TABLE X
PRESENT MARITAL STATUS

Marital Status		N	%
Married		84	33.6
Widow/Widower		124	49.6
Single		28	11.2
Divorced		14	5.6
	Total	250	
	Missing Data	5	(1.9% of total)

TABLE XI
MARITAL STATUS BY ETHNIC GROUP

	Chinese	Japanese	Korean	Pilipino
Married	27 *37.0%*	18 *32.7%*	15 *30.6%*	24 *32.0%*
Widowed	33 *45.2*	35 *64.8*	30 *61.2*	26 *34.6*
Single	10 *13.7*	0 -	4 *8.2*	14 *18.6*
Divorced	3 *4.1*	1 *1.8*	0 -	10 *13.3*

TABLE XII
HOME OWNERSHIP/RENTAL

	N	%
Own home	57	22.8
Rent home	109	43.6
Other	84	33.6
Total	250	
Missing Data	5	(1.9% of total)

TABLE XIII
INCOME DISTRIBUTION

	N	%
Below $100/month	35	15.0
$100 - 200	106	45.5
$200 - 300	40	17.2
$300 - 400	31	13.3
$400+	21	9.0
Total	233	
Missing Data	22	(8.6% of total)

TABLE XIV
INCOME BY ETHNIC GROUP

	Chinese	Japanese	Korean	Pilipino
Below $100	9 *12.9*	5 *9.3*	6 *15.0%*	15 *20.8*
$100 - 200	27 *38.6*	26 *48.1*	29 *71.5*	27 *37.5*
$200 - 300	23 *32.9*	10 *18.5*	2 *5.4*	5 *6.9*
$300 - 400	3 *4.3*	6 *11.1*	1 *2.7*	21 *29.2*
$400+	8 *11.4*	7 *13.0*	2 *5.4*	4 *5.6*
Total	70	51	40	72

TABLE XV
ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH

		N	%
Yes		144	58.3
No		103	41.7
	Total	247	
	Missing Data	8	(3.1% of total)

ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH
BY ETHNIC GROUP

	Chinese	Japanese	Korean	Pilipino	Total
Excellent	3	0	0	4	7
	4.0%	-	-	*5.3%*	*2.7%*
Good	5	9	0	19	33
	6.5	*16.3*	-	*25.3*	*12.9*
Fair	5	13	2	28	48
	6.5	*24.0*	*4.0*	*37.3*	*18.9*
Little	21	18	8	14	62
	28.0	*33.3*	*16.0*	*18.6*	*24.4*
None	39	14	40	10	103
	55.0	*25.9*	*80.0*	*13.3*	*41.7*

TABLE XVI
TALENTS

	N	%
Friendly Visiting	75	29.6
Typing	5	2.0
Public Speaking	13	5.1
Arts and Crafts	27	10.7
Singing	33	13.0
Poetry	11	4.3
Carpentry	14	5.5
Barber	2	.8
Cooking	123	48.6
Painting	14	5.5
Commercial Art	-	-
Business	7	2.8
Community Organizing	11	4.3
Accounting	4	1.6
Driving Car	9	3.6

TABLE XVII
AVAILABILITY FOR EMPLOYMENT

Are you available for employment?	N	%
Yes	66	26.9
No	181	73.1
Missing Data	18	(3.1%)

INTEREST IN EMPLOYMENT
BY ETHNIC GROUP

Chinese	Japanese	Korean	Pilipino
12	3	7	43
16.4%	*5.7%*	*14.0%*	*55.1%*

TABLE XVIII
IF AVAILABLE FOR EMPLOYMENT,
FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME

AVAILABILITY	N	% of Total Available Workers
Full-Time	22	33.7
Part-Time	44	66.7

TABLE XIX
ARE YOU AVAILABLE FOR
VOLUNTEER SERVICES?

Are you available for volunteer services?	N	%
Yes	62	26.2
No	175	73.8
Missing Data	18	(7.0%)

TABLE XX
INTEREST IN VOLUNTEER SERVICES
BY ETHNIC GROUP

Chinese	Japanese	Korean	Pilipino
16	8	11	27
22.9%	*14.8%*	*22.0%*	*34.6*

IF AVAILABLE FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICES, HOW OFTEN?

FREQUENCY

	N	%
Once/Weekly	25	40.8
Once/Monthly	37	59.2

TABLE XXI
AID

Do you receive any of the following:

	N	%
Food Stamps	12	4.7
SSI	52	20.6
Medicaid	38	15.0
Medicare	83	32.8
Septa Pass	108	42.7
DPA	5	2.0

TABLE XXII
RESPONDENTS PERCEPTIONS OF
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
NEEDED AND RECEIVED

	No. Presently Receiving	No. Unmet Need	Percentage Receiving Aid
Food Stamps	12	64	15.7
SSI	52	68	43.3
Medicaid	38	55	40.8
Medicare	83	55	60.1

TABLE XXIII
KNOWLEDGE OF SENIOR CENTER

	N	%
Yes	92	37.7
No	153	62.3
NR	10	(3.9% of total)

TABLE XXIV
KNOWLEDGE OF SENIOR CENTER

Age	Yes	No
60 - 70	11 *19.0%*	47 *81.0%*
71 - 80	45 *44.1*	57 *55.9*
81 - 90	15 *29.4*	36 *70.6*
90+	21 *63.6*	12 *36.4*
TOTAL	92 *37.7*	152 *62.3*

PARTICIPATION IN
SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES
BY ETHNIC GROUP

Chinese	Japanese	Korean	Pilipino	Total
8 *11%*	6 *11%*	0 -	9 *12%*	23 *9%*

TABLE XXV
REASONS FOR NOT JOINING
SENIOR CENTER

	N	%
Language Barrier	69	30.1
Insensitivity to my needs	49	21.3
Restrictive eligibility requirements	14	6.1
Not interested	42	18.3
Racial discrimination	28	12.2
Services do not respond to my interests	98	42.7

TABLE XXVI
REASONS FOR NOT JOINING SENIOR CENTER

	Chinese	Japanese	Korean	Pilipino
Language Barrier	38 *57%*	19 *39%*	10 *20%*	2 *3%*
Insensitivity to needs	13 *19*	7 *14*	9 *18*	20 *30*
Restrictive eligibility requirements	3 *4*	3 *6*	7 *14*	1 *1*
Not Interested	13 *19*	12 *24*	8 *16*	9 *13*
Racial Discrimination	1 *1*	2 *4*	8 *16*	17 *26*
Services do not respond to interests	34 *51*	13 *26*	12 *24*	39 *59*

TABLE XXVII
IS THERE A NEED FOR
ASIAN-AMERICAN SENIOR CENTER

	N	%
Yes	205	83.3
No	7	2.8
Don't Know	34	13.4
NR	9	(3.5% of total)

TABLE XXVIII
AWARENESS OF SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY IN PHILADELPHIA

	N	%
Homemaker Services	13	5
In-Home Services	4	1
Domiciliary Care	3	1
Adult Foster Care	9	3
Meals on Wheels	22	9
Senior Centers	63	25
Supportive Counseling	12	5
Nutrition Sites	12	5
Food Stamps	89	35
Protective Services	6	2
Escort Services	6	2
Friendly Visiting	28	11
Community Legal Services	16	6
Information and Referral	11	4
Emergency Shelter	7	3
Wheels Inc.	8	3
Emergency Funds	5	2
Case Management	3	1
Recreational Services	27	11
Travel Day Camp	16	6
Senior Aide Program	9	3
Community Nursing	9	3
State Ombudsman	2	1

	N	%
Housing for the Elderly	35	14
Transportation Discounts	61	24
Group Trips and Tours	49	19
Educational Opportunities	8	3
Job Recruitment and Training	7	3
Mental Retardation Services	4	1
Alternative Living	6	2
Retirement Counseling	1	4

TABLE XXIX
AWARENESS OF SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY IN PHILADELPHIA
BY ETHNIC GROUP
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	Chinese	Japanese	Korean	Pilipino
Homemaker Services	5	3	0	5
	6%	*5%*	-	*7%*
In-Home Services	3	0	0	1
	4	-	-	*1*
Domiciliary Care	2	0	0	1
	3	-	-	*1*
Adult Foster Care	4	4	0	1
	5	*7*	-	*1*
Meals-On-Wheels	10	10	0	2
	14	*18*	-	*3*
Senior Centers	8	12	0	43
	11	*22*	-	*57*
Supportive Counseling	8	4	0	0
	11	*7*	-	-
Nutrition Sites	6	3	0	3
	8	*5*	-	*4*
Food Stamps	24	16	5	44
	33	*29*	*10*	*59*
Protective Services	4	1	0	1
	5	*1*	-	*1*
Escort Services	3	1	0	2
	4	*1*	-	*3*
Friendly Visiting	8	3	0	17
	11	*5*	-	*23*
Community Legal Services	3	7	0	6
	4	*13*	-	*8*
Information & Referral	8	2	0	1
	11	*2*	-	*1*
Emergency Shelter	2	3	0	2
	2	*5*	-	*3*

	Chinese	Japanese	Korean	Pilipino
Wheels Inc.	4	3	0	1
	5%	*5%*	-	*1%*
Emergency Funds	2	3	0	0
	2	*5*	-	-
Case Management	2	1	0	0
	2	*1*	-	-
Recreational Services	8	6	0	13
	11	*11*	-	*17*
Travel Day Camp	4	4	0	8
	5	*7*	-	*11*
Senior Aide Program	2	3	0	4
	2	*5*	-	*5*
Community Nursing	6	3	0	0
	8	*5*	-	-
State Ombudsman	1	1	0	0
	1	*1*	-	-
Housing for the Elderly	18	7	0	10
	25	*13*	-	*13*
Transportation Dis-Counts	19	9	9	24
	26	*16*	*18*	*32*
Groups Trips and Tours	11	9	4	25
	15	*16*	*8*	*33*
Educational Opportunities	4	2	0	2
	5	*3*	-	*3*
Job Recruitment and Training	2	1	0	4
	2	*1*	-	*5*
Mental Health Services	6	1	0	0
	8	*1*	-	-
Mental Retardation Services	3	1	0	0
	4	*1*	-	-
Alternative Living	4	2	0	0
	5	*2*	-	-
Retirement Counseling	2	1	0	1
	2	*1*	-	*1*

TABLE XXX
NEEDS

	N	%
Counseling	68	26.9
Employment	57	22.5
Financial Aid	113	44.7
Health Services	183	72.3
Housing	100	39.5
Information & Referral	92	36.4
Legal Services	41	16.2
Mental Health	25	9.9
Nutrition Services	99	39.1
Recreational Services	179	70.8
Retirement	84	33.2
Transportation	166	65.6
Other Services	4	1.6

TABLE XXXI
NEEDS BY ETHNIC GROUP

	Chinese	Japanese	Korean	Pilipino
Counseling	19 *26%*	1 *1%*	23 *47%*	24 *32%*
Employment	4 *1*	0 -	12 *24*	40 *53*
Financial Aid	29 *40*	3 *1*	31 *63*	49 *65*
Health Services	61 *83*	28 *51*	34 *69*	59 *79*
Housing	48 *66*	4 *1*	20 *41*	27 *36*
Information/ Referral	31 *42*	16 *29*	23 *47*	22 *29*
Legal Services	11 *15*	0 -	6 *12*	24 *32*
Mental Health Services	18 *25*	2 *1*	2 *1*	3 *1*
Nutrition Services	44 *60*	7 *13*	23 *47*	25 *33*
Recreational Services	58 *79*	26 *47*	30 *61*	65 *87*
Retirement	23 *31*	8 *15*	19 *39*	34 *45*
Transportation	50 *68*	27 *49*	44 *90*	45 *60*
Other Services	0 -	0 -	2 *1*	2 *1*

TABLE XXXII
REASONS FOR NOT GETTING SERVICES

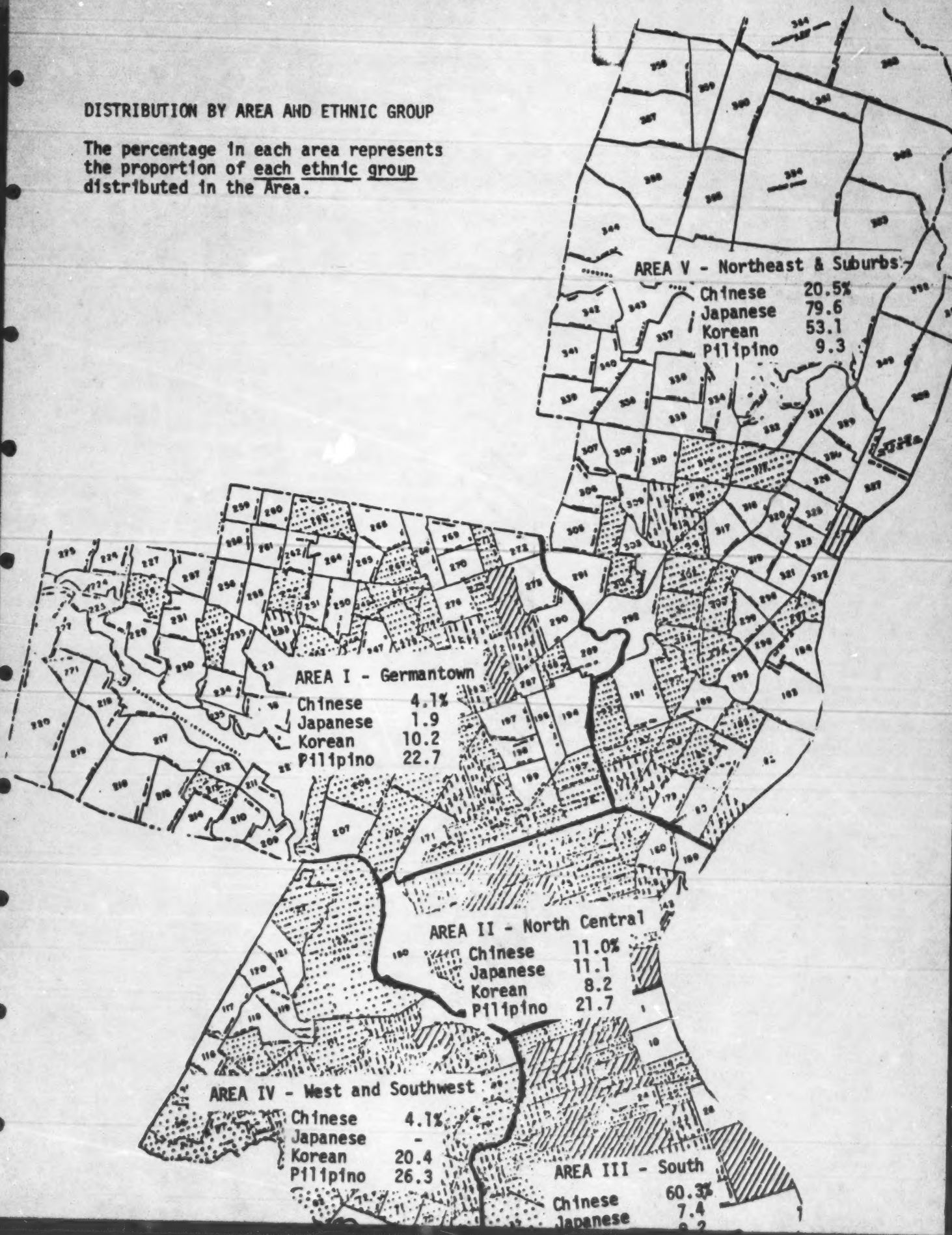
	N	%
Sense of Shame	62	24.5
Don't know how to get help	163	64.4
Service persons do not understand me	64	25.3
Language Barriers	134	53.0
Service persons don't know traditions and customs	88	34.8
Racial discrimination	57	22.5
Not easy to get to	131	51.8
Absence of bi-cultural service providers	145	57.3
Hostilities and lack of understanding	76	30.0
Other difficulties	4	1.6

TABLE XXXIII
REASONS FOR NOT GETTING SERVICES

	Chinese	Japanese	Korean	Filipino
Sense of Shame	12 *16%*	4 *7*	6 *12%*	40 *53%*
Don't know how to get help	52 *71*	19 *34*	38 *77*	54 *72*
Service persons do not understand me	26 *36*	2 *1*	10 *20*	26 *35*
Language Barriers	48 *66*	16 *29*	41 *84*	29 *39*
Service persons don't know traditions-values	35 *48*	6 *10*	11 *22*	36 *48*
Racial discrimination	6 *8*	1 *1*	12 *24*	38 *51*
Services not easy to get to	34 *46*	17 *31*	34 *69*	46 *61*
Absence of bi-cultural service providers	42 *57*	23 *42*	28 *57*	52 *69*
Hostilities and lack of understanding	14 *19*	5 *9*	11 *22*	46 *61*
Other difficulties	1 *1*	1 *1*	0 -	2 *1*
	73	55	49	75

DISTRIBUTION BY AREA AND ETHNIC GROUP

The percentage in each area represents the proportion of <u>each ethnic group</u> distributed in the Area.



AREA I - Germantown
Chinese 4.1%
Japanese 1.9
Korean 10.2
Pilipino 22.7
AREA II - North Central
Chinese 11.0%
Japanese 11.1
Korean 8.2
Pilipino 21.7
AREA IV - West and Southwest
Chinese 4.1%
Japanese -
Korean 20.4
Pilipino 26.3
AREA III - South
Chinese 60.3%
Japanese 7.4
Korean 8.2
Pilipino 20.0